



Colorado Prevention Leadership Council

*Improving the Health, Education, Safety,
and Well-being of Children and Youth*

1st Quarter Updates 2008

Memoranda of Understanding

The State Department Interagency MOUs (required by C.R.S. §25-20.5-101 through 111, C.R.S.) have been signed by the Departments of Human Services, Public Safety, Public Health and Environment and Transportation. The MOU for the Colorado Department of Education is in process. In addition, State Judicial and the Departments of Health Care Policy and Financing, and Revenue are reviewing the MOU in consideration of voluntarily signing the as partners in our interagency activities.

State Plan for Prevention, Intervention and Treatment Services for Children and Youth

The revised *Colorado State Plan for Prevention, Intervention and Treatment Services for Children and Youth* was signed by Governor Ritter on March 17th after having been approved and signed by Lisa Roy, Chair of the Board of the Tony Gramscas Youth Services Program, and Jim Martin, Executive Director of CDPHE. A PDF copy of the revised plan can be requested by contacting Chele Clark at chele.clark@state.co.us. Limited copies will be professionally formatted and published for distribution in the summer. The previous version of this State Plan can be found at (<http://www.colorado.gov/plc/PLCStatePlan.pdf>).

Colorado Prevention Partners

The Colorado Prevention Partners, an initiative of the Colorado Prevention Leadership Council, is a statewide local coalition-building effort that is in its fourth year of funding. The partners include the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe and these counties: Alamosa, Costilla, Denver, Garfield, Gunnison, Kit Carson, Las Animas, Mesa, Prowers, Pueblo, Rio Grande, and Weld. The initiative leadership is in the process of determining how to sustain the local coalitions and what “lessons learned” would be valuable to others and for possible replication additional counties. The initiative is also jointly funding two new coalitions, one in Cortez and one in Montelores (Delores and Montezuma Counties), with funds from Title V, Juvenile Delinquency Prevention.

Request for Proposals/Request for Applications

We are required by C.R.S. §25-20.5-106(2)(a)(I-V) to develop common components to all state-issued Requests for Proposals/Requests for Applications for children and youth services. A comparative analysis of the various children and youth RFPs/RFAs will be conducted between mid-April and the end of June. Please submit copies of your program's RFP/RFA to Chele Clark, chele.clark@state.co.us by Friday, April 18, 2008.

Best Practices Website Update

The PLC Best Practice Website (<http://www.colorado.gov/bestpractices>) is being updated by Katie Anderson, an intern working with José Esquibel and Chele Clark. She is researching up-to-date strategies and documents to add to each section. We are in need of identifying some additional content experts for several topics. Chele will be making contact with content experts from the various departments to review the updated material before it is posted to the Website. For those topic areas that no longer have an assigned content expert, Chele will make a list and your assistance in identifying new content experts will be appreciated.

Exemplary and Innovative Prevention and Intervention Programs

The PLC is implementing a process for identifying exemplary and innovative prevention and intervention practices and programs being implemented by providers within our state. This includes linking identified providers to regional and national resources (funds and technical assistance) in advancing the evaluation of their practices. The upcoming Service to Science Academy is an opportunity for program managers to nominate a grantee/provider who is doing exceptional work in evaluating the effectiveness of their program(s). The Service to Science Academy is a two-day workshop funded by The Southwest Center for the Application of Prevention Technologies to enhance program evaluation designs. Participants receive follow-up technical assistance and become eligible to apply for up to \$30,000 for strengthening their program evaluation efforts. The next Service to Science Academy is occurring on May 19th and 20th in New Orleans, Louisiana, *and the SWCAPT will pay all travel expenses*. Nominees for the Service-to-Science Academy can be sent to José Esquibel, j.esquibel@state.co.us or Kathy Gary, Kathleen.gary@state.co.us. For more info about the Academy go to <http://captus.samhsa.gov/southwest/SWCAPTService2Science.cfm>.

University Partners

The PLC is working to strengthen its relationships with the University of Colorado/Health Sciences and the Colorado State University/Extension. Members discussed the value of the Universities' roles and contributions (i.e. evaluation experts, service learning and internship opportunities, etc.) and the direct connection with Extension Offices throughout the state.

Required Program Reviews

The PLC is in the process of finalizing its Program Review form. State statute mandates that the program reviews occur once every four years. All children and youth program managers must complete the user-friendly Program Review form, which will be sent out in May 2008. The form was developed in partnership with program managers from several state departments to increase the simplicity and lessen the burden of the process.

Data Sharing and Utilization

The Colorado Data Sharing and Utilization Group is being formed to address coordination and use of data from across state departments in planning and decision-making regarding children and youth services. This group will consist of a steering committee with representation from as many as six state departments and workgroups consisting of epidemiologists, data analysis, evaluators and program managers who will work on determining how programs can share and use data across departments. The first Steering Committee meeting is set for April 22nd from 1:00pm-3:00pm. A concept paper has been prepared and can be requested by contacting José Esquibel at j.esquibel@state.co.us.

Fiscal Coordination

The PLC is working to support cross-departmental collaboration for creating innovative budgeting, funding and financing strategies. This effort is being aligned with the recommendations of the Colorado LINKS for Mental Health initiative and the Behavioral Health Task Force related to fiscal coordination. Please share your ideas, concerns, comments and recommendations with José Esquibel, j.esquibel@state.co.us, so that your ideas can be incorporated into the initial concept paper.

Coordination of Statewide Technical Assistance and Training Efforts and Resources

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On March 13th, the Colorado Prevention Leadership Council (PLC) hosted a technical assistance and training strategic planning meeting. Over 20 representatives from across 6 State Departments gathered to develop a plan on how to integrate technical assistance and training efforts for local communities (i.e. grantees). The end goal is to build a system/infrastructure around the needs of its users, namely local communities and service providers. The specific action steps generated from the planning session are:

- 1) Create a “map” of technical assistance and training needs and efforts, and identify what needs can be addressed collaboratively (low hanging fruit).
- 2) Conduct a survey of technical assistance and trainings providers that are funded by state agencies, analyze results and distribute use the findings for integrating efforts.

- 3) Create a portal within CO-TRAIN for coordinating trainings across state departments.
- 4) Recruit new members to the PLC Prevention Capacity Development Task Force to keep moving forward on action steps. The next meeting of this task force is Thursday, May 22, 2008, from 9:00am – 12:00pm, in the Snow Room. New members are welcome.

For more information, contact José Esquibel, j.esquibel@state.co.us.

Cross Project Coordination in the San Luis Valley

In order to practice how the various state-managed children and youth programs can better coordinate and collaborate, the Cross-Project Coordination Team of the PLC will be focusing on efforts in the San Luis Valley. In particular, the Team will be making contact with coordinators of various state-funded coalitions and other cross-partner initiatives. [A tentative date of June 9th has been set on the calendar for a community meeting in Alamosa.](#) A concept paper has been prepared and can be requested by contacting José Esquibel at j.esquibel@state.co.us.

Survey of Program Managers Regarding Use of Data from the Healthy Kids Colorado Survey

The Healthy Kids Colorado Survey (HKCS) gathers a wealth of information about youth risk behavior and protective factors. In an effort to improve the use of this valuable data, a survey will be conducted of state program managers of children and youth programs to determine what data from the HKCS is most relevant and useful in planning and setting priorities. Participation of program managers in this survey will help guide analysis of key data as well as help to determine if some questions on the current survey are no longer relevant. There will also be the opportunity to recommend additional questions related to emerging issues.

Colorado LINKS for Mental Health

[The third Colorado LINKS for Mental Health BIG Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 14th.](#) The LINKS Big Meetings have been an opportunity for behavioral health stakeholders to learn about state policy efforts and action plan around kids' behavioral health. The theme this year is *Integration to Action*, which reflects both the work of the initiative as it implements its action plan and the exciting leadership at the state level to implement changes in the behavioral health system.

We are able to move forward with implementing the LINKS Behavioral Health Action Plan because of generous funding from the Colorado Health Foundation. Areas of focus and key benchmarks include:

- a. Integration of efforts: Creating a clearinghouse for local communities that brings together all existing information and clearinghouses on kids' mental health.

Resources could include toolkits, links to other websites, technical assistance sources, databases, best practices, etc.

- b. Budget, Funding, and Finance: Identifying regulation and finance barriers to integrated and braided/blended funding at the local level. Conducting an analysis of how changes could benefit the state.
- c. Family and Youth Empowerment: Leveraging existing family and youth training efforts to create a sustainable structure for connecting families and youth to state level policymaking boards.